

Claims 1 - 83 were previously cancelled.

Claims 84 – 118 are presently cancelled.

119. (new) A clearinghouse server system method for receiving from publishers of works of authorship offers of licenses, presenting the offers to potential licensees, and acknowledging acceptances without intermediate human activity, comprising:

(a) presenting on a computer network license offering registration web pages usable by a plurality of publishers to enter for each of a plurality of works of authorship information to identify the work and all terms for offering a license to make a use of the work;

(b) receiving on the registration web pages from a first computer and a second computer on the network information for a first registration record for a first work of authorship from a first publisher and for a second registration record for a second work of authorship from a second publisher;

(c) storing on the server system a first registration record and a second registration record, the data stored in the first registration record specifying an identifier of the first work of authorship and all terms for offering to license the first work of authorship;

(d) receiving from a third computer on the network the identifier of the first work of authorship and, in response, presenting to the third computer a license offering web page incorporating all of the terms for offering a license to make a use of the first work of authorship; and

(e) receiving from the third computer on the network a message indicating acceptance of the offered terms and responding to the third computer with a message that the acceptance has been received and acknowledged.

120. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein the registration web pages usable to enter all terms for offering a license to make a use of a work of authorship comprise fields for entry of default business rules and default prices.

121. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein the information for a first registration record comprises a reference to default license offering terms previously established in the server system.

122. (new) The method of claim 121 wherein the default license offering terms comprise prices that change based on publication date.

123. (new) The method of claim 121 wherein the default license offering terms comprise prices that change based on date that the license is accepted.

124. (new) The method of claim 123 wherein the prices decline over time.

125. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein, before a registration record is stored on the server system, an operator of the computer that provides the information for the registration record must first enter a name and a password which must match a name and a password stored on the server system.

126. (new) The method of claim 119 further comprising, after the message indicating acceptance is received, sending to the third computer an electronic copy of the work of authorship.

127. (new) The method of claim 126 wherein the electronic copy includes electronically coded text.

128. (new) The method of claim 119 further comprising, after the message indicating acceptance is received, printing a copy of the work of authorship on paper for delivery.

129. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein the step of responding to the third computer with a message that the acceptance has been received and acknowledged further is supplemented with a step of storing a record of the accepted license and making the record available for look-up from any computer on the network.

130. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein the step of presenting license offering registration web pages is performed in a first server in the server system and the step of presenting to the third computer a licensing web page is performed in a second server in the server system.

131. (new) The method of claim 119 wherein functions of the server system are distributed across a plurality of physical computers and at least one of the server system steps is performed in the first computer.

132. (new) The method of claim 119 further comprising publishing from a server on the network the first work of authorship in which the identifier of the first work of authorship is embedded such that, when the first work of authorship is displayed on the third computer and a user of the third computer clicks on a hot spot in the work of authorship, the embedded identifier is used to form a network address that links the third computer to the license offering web page for the first work of authorship.